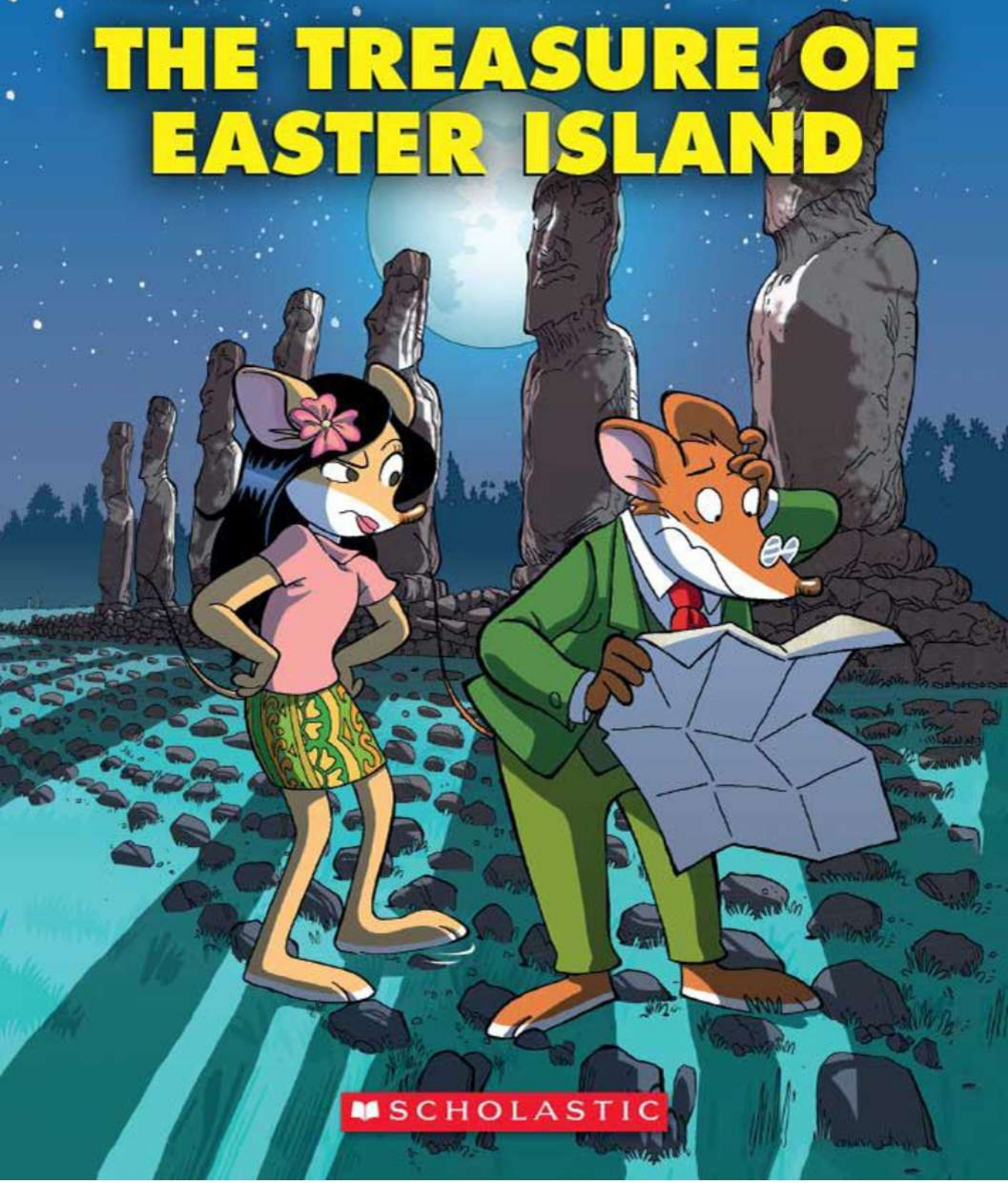




Geronimo Stilton

THE TREASURE OF EASTER ISLAND



 **SCHOLASTIC**

Dear mouse friends,
Welcome to the world of



Geronimo Stilton



THE RODENT'S GAZETTE
EDITORIAL STAFF





Geronimo Stilton

A learned and brainy mouse; editor of
The Rodent's Gazette



Thea Stilton

Geronimo's sister and
special correspondent at
The Rodent's Gazette



Trap Stilton

An awful joker;
Geronimo's cousin and
owner of the store
Cheap Junk for Less



Benjamin Stilton

A sweet and loving
nine-year-old mouse;
Geronimo's favorite
nephew

Geronimo Stilton

THE TREASURE OF EASTER ISLAND



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AN ADVENTURE TO REMEMBER!

I'm ready to tell you about an **incredible** adventure I'll never **forget**. This story is very special to me because it takes place in one of the most mysterious places on **Earth**...





The whole thing started on a beautiful spring **morning**. Oops! What terrible manners! I haven't introduced myself yet. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*, and I'm the publisher of *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most **famouse** newspaper on Mouse Island.

Anyway, that **spring** morning I was hard at work in my office. (For the record, I'm **always** hard at work when I'm in the office, even if my grandfather, William Shortpaws, says otherwise!) I was with Susie Shuttermouse, our new staff **photographer**. We were deciding which photo to put on the front page of our next issue. Susie is also **best friends** with my sister, Thea. And Thea is the newspaper's special correspondent.

Susie pointed to a photo of the **Amazon**

Susie Shuttermouse



Susie Shuttermouse is *The Rodent's Gazette's* official photographer and Thea's best friend. They travel the world together looking for exclusive stories. Susie wants to be ready for anything and everything, so she never travels anywhere without her equipment bag.

Susie's Equipment Bag

Susie's bag is enormouse! It has lots of hidden, zippered compartments. Each pocket holds a different item, such as a camera, pliers, scissors, energy bars, a toothbrush, etc. The bag also has many special features. It can become a backpack, a parachute, or an umbrella! And it's made of very lightweight but durable waterproof material.





rain forest. The image showed a crew of **rats** chopping down trees and vegetation.

“Listen to me, Geronimo,” Susie squeaked. “You should put a story about the Amazon on the **front** page. We have to do something to keep these rats from **destroying** the rain forest! I risked my **fur** to take these photos. Now the least you can do is **PUBLISH** them!”

AMAZON RAIN FOREST

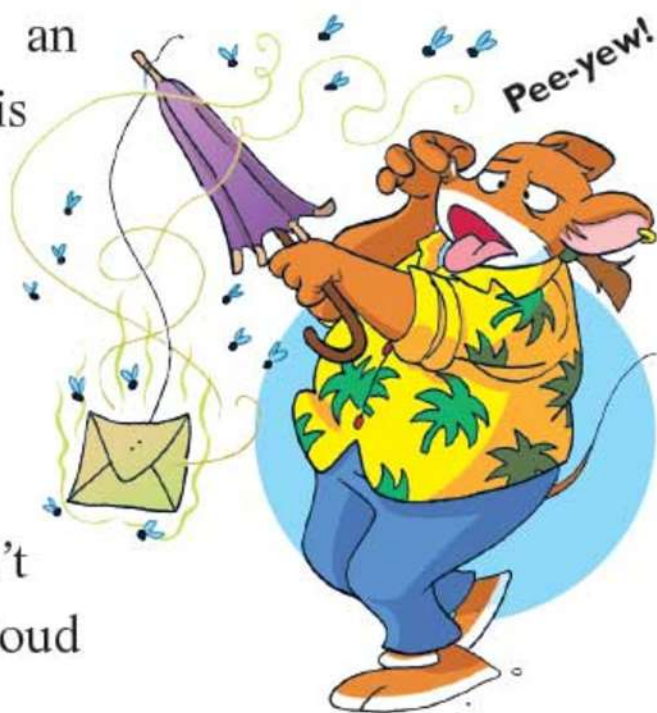




“Nice work, Susie,” I said proudly. “I can already see the **HEADLINE**: ‘Amazon Rain Forest in Danger from —’”

Before I could finish, my office door **FLEW** open and my cousin Trap **BURST** in. He also works for the **newspaper**, though you’d never know it! He only shows up in the office when it’s **convenient** for him. Anyway, he was pinching his nose with one paw, and he held an **umbrella** in his other paw.

A **letter** dangled by a string from the tip of the umbrella. And as if that wasn’t weird enough, a cloud





What is it?

You've got mail!



of flies **buzzed** around the letter!

“You’ve got **MAIL**, Geronimo!” Trap squeaked. “And boy, does it **stink**!”

He snipped the string with a pair of scissors and the letter landed on my desk with a **flutter**.

“Yuck, yuck, yuck!” Trap screeched. “Rat-munching rattlesnakes, where’s this thing from? A **garbage** dump? A sewage treatment plant? An underground cave full of **rancid roaches** that haven’t bathed in years?”

He turned to leave, calling over his shoulder: “You’d better close the door before you open that thing, Cuz! Everyone in the newsroom is complaining about the awful **stench**!”

I sighed. Was it my fault someone had sent me the **stinkiest** piece of mail in all of



New Mouse City?!

A second later, Susie closed the door with a **BANG!** ①

Then she **dashed** to the window and threw it open. A **GUST** of wind blew into the office, making it much easier to **breathe**. ②

Next she took a pair of **Tweezers** out of her giant equipment bag. She **carefully**





picked up the envelope.

3

Finally, she pulled out a **Magnifying** glass and used it to examine the foul piece of mail.

4

“That’s odd,” Susie remarked. “This comes from **EASTER ISLAND**. Who would write to you from there, Geronimo?”

I **shook** my head in surprise.

“Musty muenster, I have no idea!” I

What a stench!



She picked up the letter with a pair of tweezers . . .

3

. . . and examined it carefully.

4

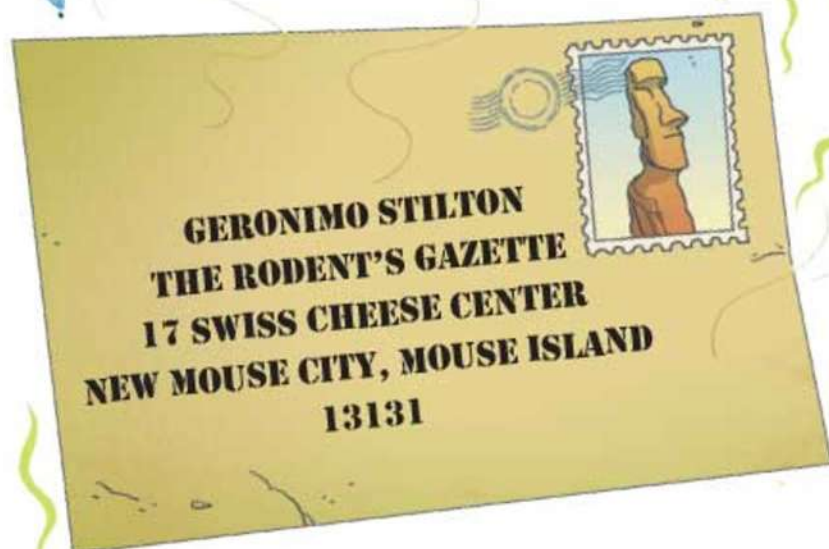
How odd!





exclaimed. “Easter Island is one of the most **MYSTERIOUS** places in the world . . . and it’s in the middle of nowhere!”

My paws trembled with excitement as I opened that **strange**, stinky envelope. Another surprise awaited me inside . . . The letter was from my sister, **THEA**!



Dear Geronimo,

I've found a map that leads to treasure on Easter Island, and I've decided to search for it! I'm on the island right now. But I'm afraid finding the treasure could be very difficult, so that's why I'm sending you a copy of the map. If you receive this letter before I'm able to call you, it's because I may be in danger and I need your help. Find me by following the directions on the map. See you soon!

Love,

THEA

P.S. Don't dillydally. Leave immediately!

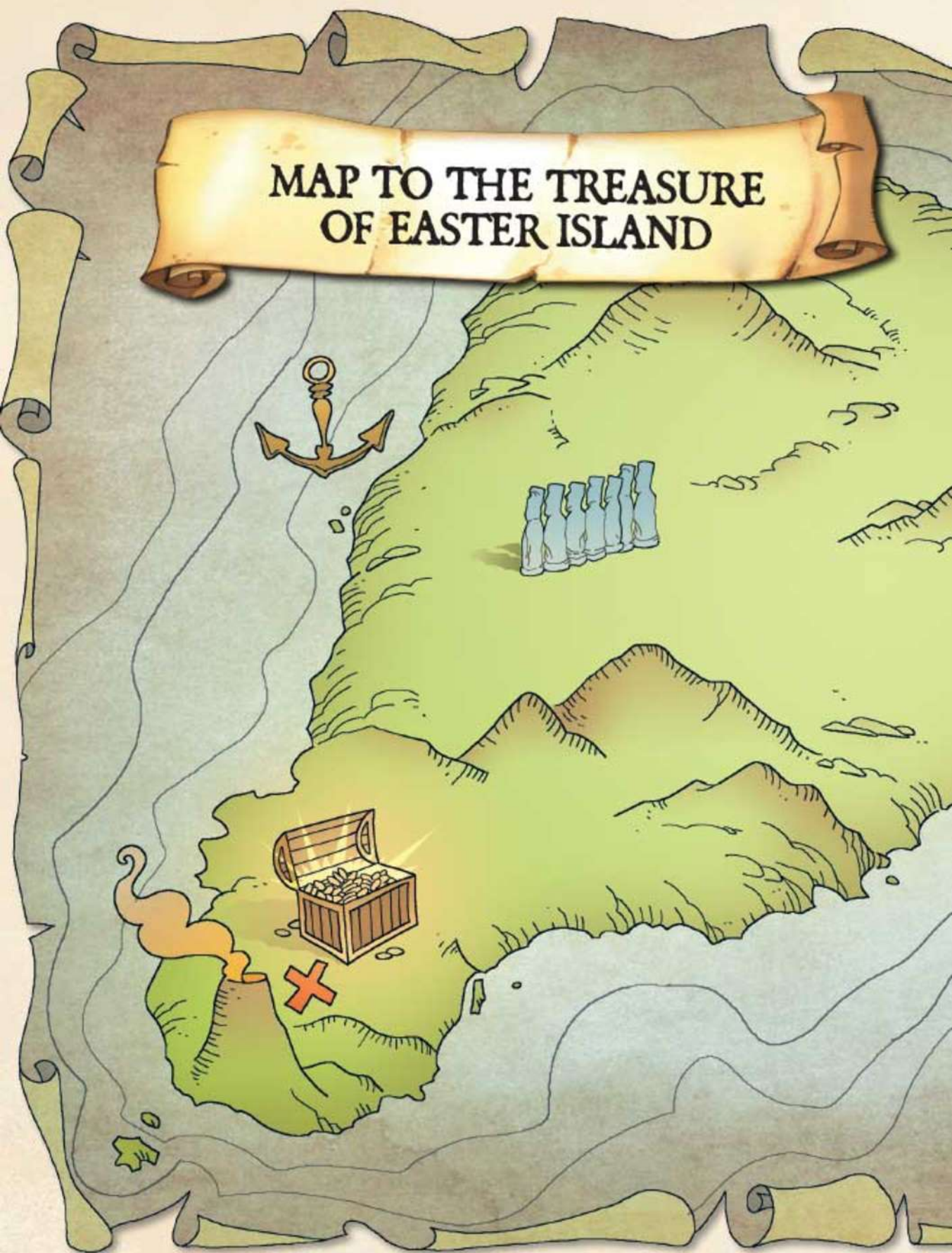
P.P.S. Invite someone adventurous to come with you — someone like Wild Willie!

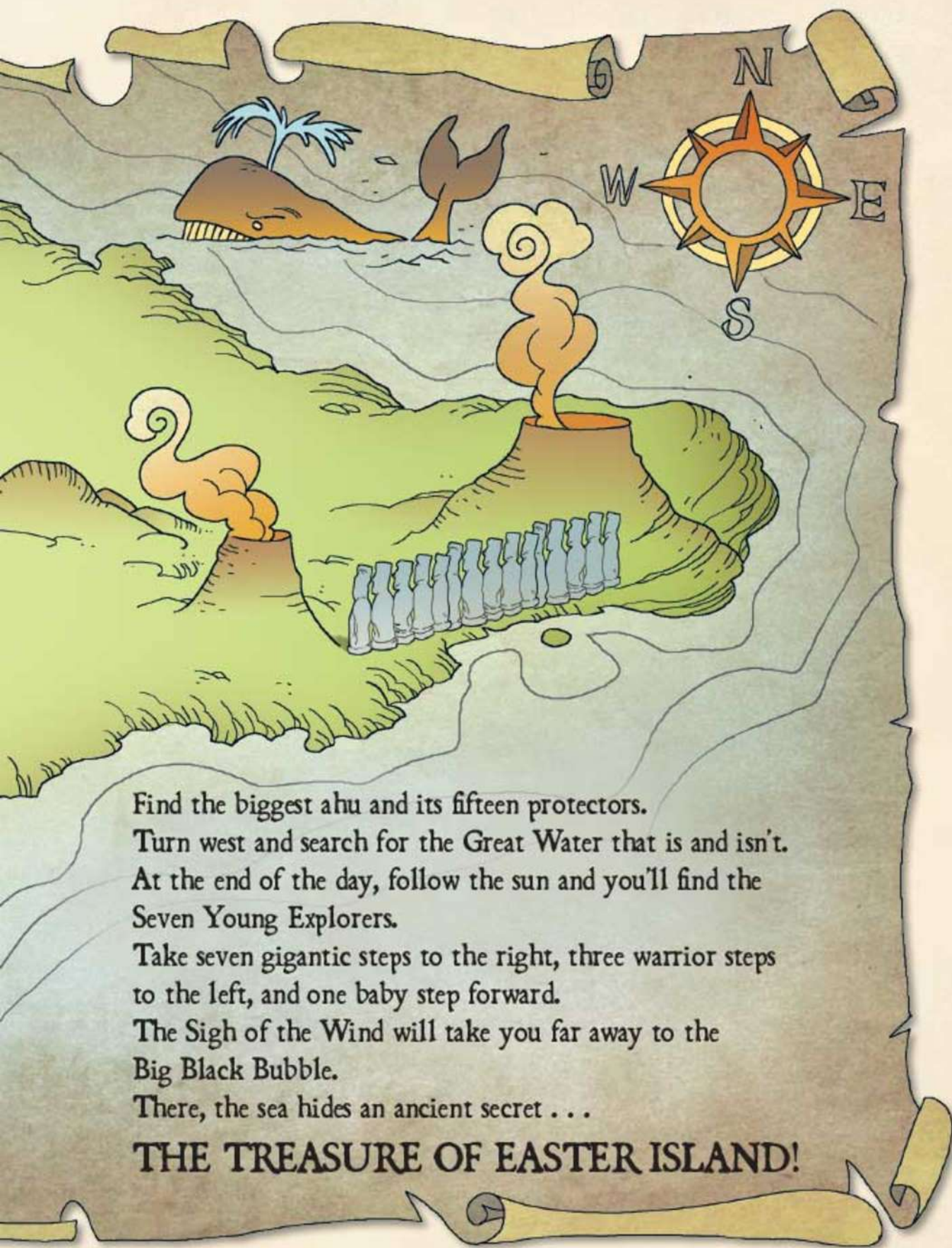
P.P.P.S. Take Susie with you as well. She can take photos to go along with my story, and The Rodent's Gazette will have the scoop of the year!

Furthermore: Remember to update your will before leaving. This island is very mysterious, and who knows what might happen on a search for treasure. You may be leaving your fur behind!

One Last Thing: I hope you didn't find this letter too stinky. I wanted to keep any sneaky rodents from opening it and reading the map, so I dipped this letter in guano (that's bird poop, in case you were wondering). It stinks so much no one would ever want to open it! Aren't you impressed with my ingenuity?

MAP TO THE TREASURE OF EASTER ISLAND





Find the biggest ahu and its fifteen protectors.
Turn west and search for the Great Water that is and isn't.
At the end of the day, follow the sun and you'll find the
Seven Young Explorers.
Take seven gigantic steps to the right, three warrior steps
to the left, and one baby step forward.
The Sigh of the Wind will take you far away to the
Big Black Bubble.
There, the sea hides an ancient secret . . .

THE TREASURE OF EASTER ISLAND!



TREASURE, TREASURE, TREASURE!

“**Wh-wh-what?**” I stammered. “A map? A treasure? Easter Island?”

My whiskers **trembled** with fear. I didn’t want to go on a treasure hunt! In case you didn’t know it, I’m a real scaredy-mouse.

As soon as I uttered the word **treasure**, the door flew open and smacked me in the snout.

“**Ouch! E!**” I squeaked.

It was my cousin Trap. He had clearly been standing just on the other side of the door, **eavesdropping**. He didn’t even apologize.

“A treasure?” he squeaked, rubbing his paws together **greedily**. “I’m coming with



you. Oh, what a beautiful word: *treasure*, *treasure*, *treasure*!”

“Trap, don’t you understand?” I scolded him. “The treasure isn’t important — Thea is! I received her letter, but she hasn’t called. That means she’s in **DANGER!**”

Susie tried to call Thea on the phone, but she **DIDN’T ANSWER** at home or on her cell phone.





“Rat-munching rattlesnakes!” I squeaked. “Thea must be in real **DANGER**! She always answers her cell phone.”



I was so worried about my sister that I **fainted** from fear. As I said, I’m a real scaredy-mouse.



But Susie managed to revive me. First, she **smacked** my cheek. **1** Then she pinched my ear. **2** Next she poured **ICE-COLD** water from a vase of flowers over my snout. **3** Finally, she stuffed a piece of **cheese** into my mouth. **4**



While I was trying to get myself together, Susie called Wild Willie. Do you



know him? He is an **ARCHAEOLOGIST** and a true adventure mouse!

“Wild Willie, is that you?” Susie squeaked.

“It’s Susie, the **official**

photographer for *The Rodent’s Gazette*.

Thea has disappeared . . . There’s a treasure map . . . Easter Island . . . **RIGHT**. We’ll leave right away . . . **YEAH, YEAH** . . . Won’t dillydally . . . **RIGHT, RIGHT, RIGHT.**”

She hung up.

“Wild Willie is on his way,” she squeaked with satisfaction. “We’re leaving **immediately.**”

“Wh-what do you mean?” I stammered. “We’re leaving right now? But I have to **PACK** a bag! And turn on my **out-of-office** message! And say good-bye to my





THE
RODENT'S GAZETTE

Yikes!



sweet nephew Benjamin!”

Suddenly, a **GUST** of wind hit me right in the snout. Then I heard an **incredible** noise from outside my window.

Before I knew what was happening, a giant hook seemed to come out of the sky. A second later, I was dangling by my jacket collar as the hook **SCOOPED** me up and carried me away!

“Heeeelp!” I squeaked.

I **turned** toward Trap and Susie, hoping they’d pull me inside. But instead, Trap grabbed my tail, and Susie grabbed his.

“Go with the **adventure!**” Susie shouted with a giggle as the hook lifted the three of us into the air.



**MOLDY MOZZARELLA!
WHERE WERE WE GOING?!**



Go with the
adventure!

Heeeeeeeelp!





I'M ALIVE! I'M STILL ALIVE!

A midnight blue airplane with a fierce dragon painted on it flew overhead as we soared over the roofs of New Mouse City.

My whiskers **quivered** with fright. Have I mentioned that I get airsick? And that's when I'm actually **I N S I D E** an airplane, not dangling **below** one!

"HEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEELP!"

I shrieked.

With a metallic screech, the cable above me began moving **UPWARD**. Finally, I landed inside the plane: **THUMP!**

"This is fabumouse!" Trap shouted.

"Awesome!" Susie squeaked in agreement.

I'M ALIVE! I'M



STILL ALIVE!

But there were no shouts of excitement from me! I **kissed** the floor of the plane as I **cried** with relief.

"I'm alive! **I'm still alive!**"

"Well, for now..." a deep voice muttered. It was **Wild Willie!**

He was the one **flying** the plane! He handed me a map.

"Instead of wasting your breath, help me





figure out the route to Easter Island,” he squeaked. “And then read this **TRAVEL** guidebook!”

I was about to protest, but he stared at me with his **PIERCING** eyes.

“Don’t you want to find Thea?” Wild Willie asked. “Come on! Help me with the map. And don’t make any mistakes, or we’ll have to make an **EMERGENCY** landing in the middle of a **stormy** ocean or on top of a **CRAGGY** mountain peak . . .”

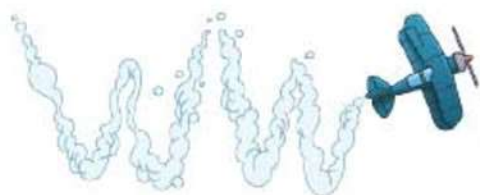
EMERGENCY LANDING?! I quickly agreed to help. But when I opened the map, what I saw gave me **chills** from the top of my head to the tip of my tail. Easter Island was **FAR** away and in the middle of **NOWHERE!** And when I read the travel guide, I realized there were many, many **MYSTERIES** surrounding the island . . .

Easter Island



This remote island is part of Chile. It lies more than two thousand miles west of South America and more than one thousand miles from its nearest island neighbor. The island was once home to the Rapa Nui people, who are famous for building incredible moai — volcanic rock statues that depict huge human heads. Easter Island has a mysterious charm that attracts many tourists.

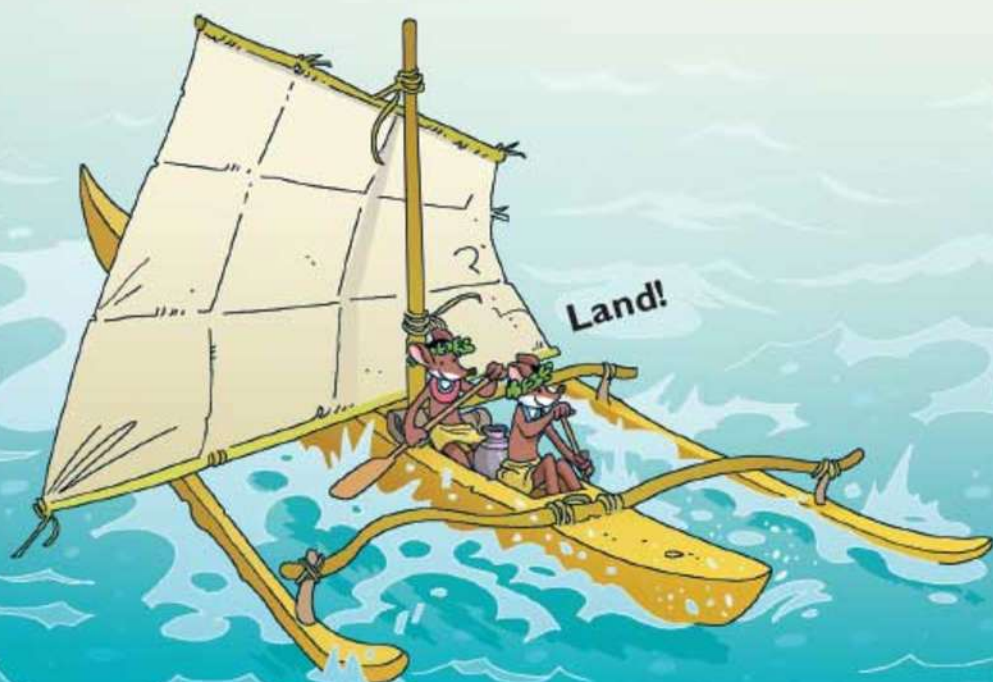




IS THAT IT? NO WAY!

We flew for hours and hours. Wild Willie kept his **GAZE** fixed on the flight **instruments**. He never moved away from the controls.

I, on the other paw, couldn't take my eyes off the foam-topped blue waves **churning**



and **crashing** below us. The ocean seemed **endless**. According to my guidebook, the Polynesian people who had once explored the area navigated the ocean in simple outrigger **CANOE**s! How terrifying!

Susie took photo after **PHOTO**.

“Does this plane do **stunts**?” she asked Wild Willie as she snapped a shot of him at the controls.

He raised his left eyebrow. “Obviously,” he replied **coolly**.

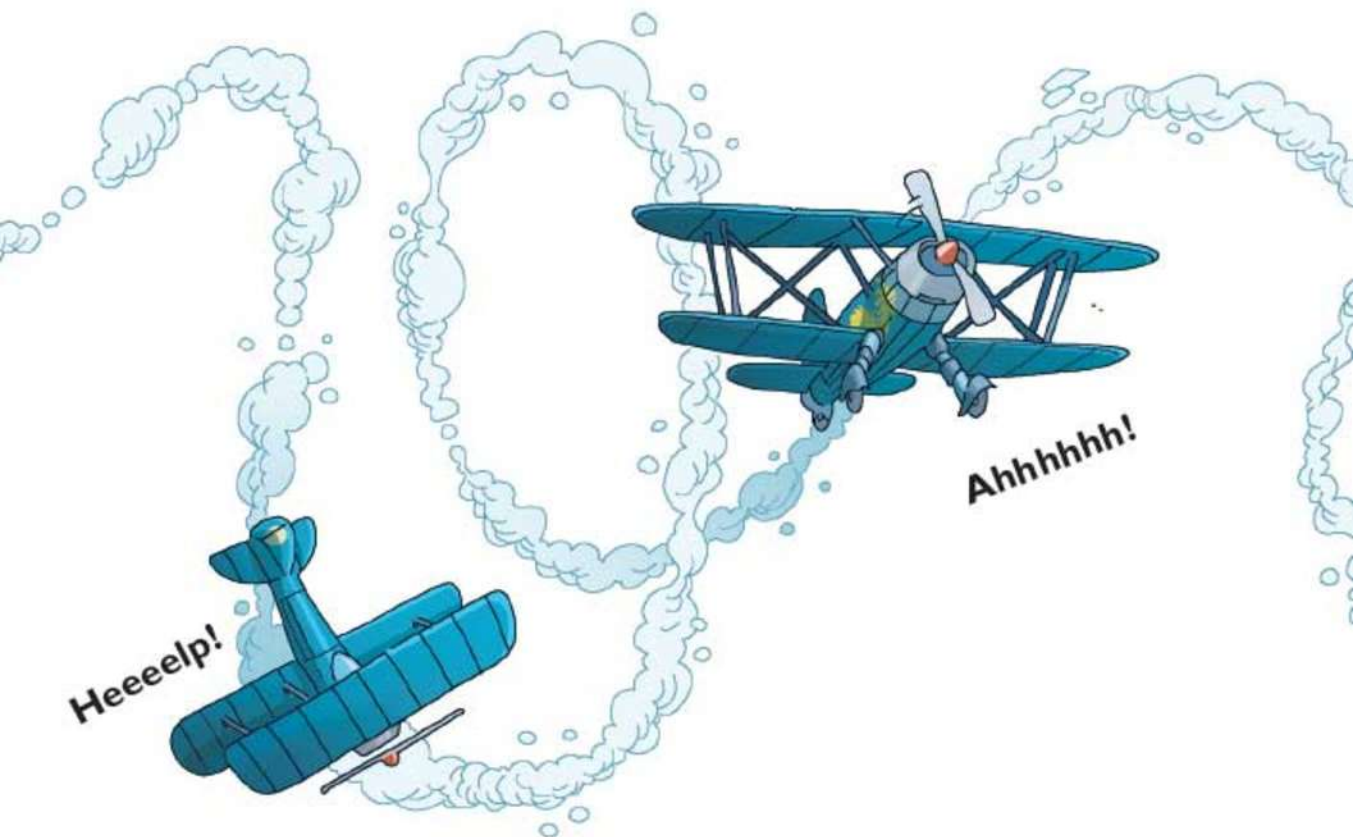
“Pff! I doubt it,” Trap muttered.

To prove himself, Wild Willie immediately leaned on the controls, sending the plane into a **wild** corkscrew.

“**HEEEEEELP!**” I screeched.

“Is that it?” Trap scoffed. “No way! You can’t do anything better?”

With a sudden lurch, the plane dove into



a death-defying **spiral**.

"Ahhhhhh!" I squeaked, **terrified**. "I don't want to lose my fur!"

"Oh, that's nothing," Trap teased Willie. "If I were behind the controls . . ."

Before Trap could finish his sentence, Wild Willie took the tiny plane through one **breathtaking** stunt after another.

During all these **DAREDEVIL** moves, I gripped the seat of the plane for dear life. My whiskers **twisted** with terror, and



I was so **airsick** I thought I might toss my cheese! Luckily, Susie's **kindness** saved me.

She rummaged through her equipment bag and found a bottle of **bubbly** seltzer water. "Here," she said. "This will help settle your stomach, Geronimo."

Thank goodmouse for her!

"Is that **ENOUGH** stunts, or do you want some **more**?" Wild Willie shouted to Trap over the **ROAR** of the plane's engine.

"Please tell him that's enough!" I **begged**



Trap. “I can’t take another second of these **loop-dee-loops!**”

Trap scratched his snout and thought about it for what seemed like an **eternity**.

“Well, I have to admit those were some pretty **IMPRESSIVE** stunts,” he conceded.

Only then did Wild Willie finally return the plane to a **HORIZONTAL** position. He grinned proudly.

A moment later, an island shaped like a **TRIANGLE** appeared on the horizon.

“We’ve arrived on Easter Island!” Susie squeaked **excitedly**.

“Yes, here we are, in the middle of **NOWHERE**,” Wild Willie remarked **darkly**. “Did you remember to update your will, Geronimo?”

I shook my snout. When would I have had the **TIME**?

“Don’t worry, Geronimo,” Susie **chirped**.
“I’ll help you do it now. To whom would you like to leave *The Rodent’s Gazette*?”

Trap **TUGGED** on my tail.

“Geronimo, my friend and favorite cousin,” he said **sweetly** — a little **TOO** sweetly, if you ask me! “You’re going to leave the paper to me, right? I know all about running a **newspaper**, unlike you. I think you should also leave me your **antique** cheese rind collection. And don’t worry about your **TOMBSTONE** — I’ll write something nice! How about: *Here lies Geronimo Stilton, a real scaredy-mouse! He met his end on Easter Island when he suffered an attack of uncontrollable fear.*”

That was something **nice**?!

“**THAT’S ENOUGH!**” I squeaked.
“Why does everyone keep asking if I’ve



updated my will, anyway?”

The **three** of them exchanged an understanding look. What were they keeping from me?

“He’s a really **jittery** mouse, isn’t he?”
Wild Willie said.





“**You’re** the ones who are making me jittery!” I said impatiently.

I put on my seat belt and closed my eyes. What kind of **DANGER** awaited me? My heart beat faster just thinking about it. But my desire to help Thea was stronger than any **fear** I felt. I opened my **WALLET** and took out a photo of my sister.

“I’ll save you, little sister!” I whispered.





WELCOME TO RAPA NUI!

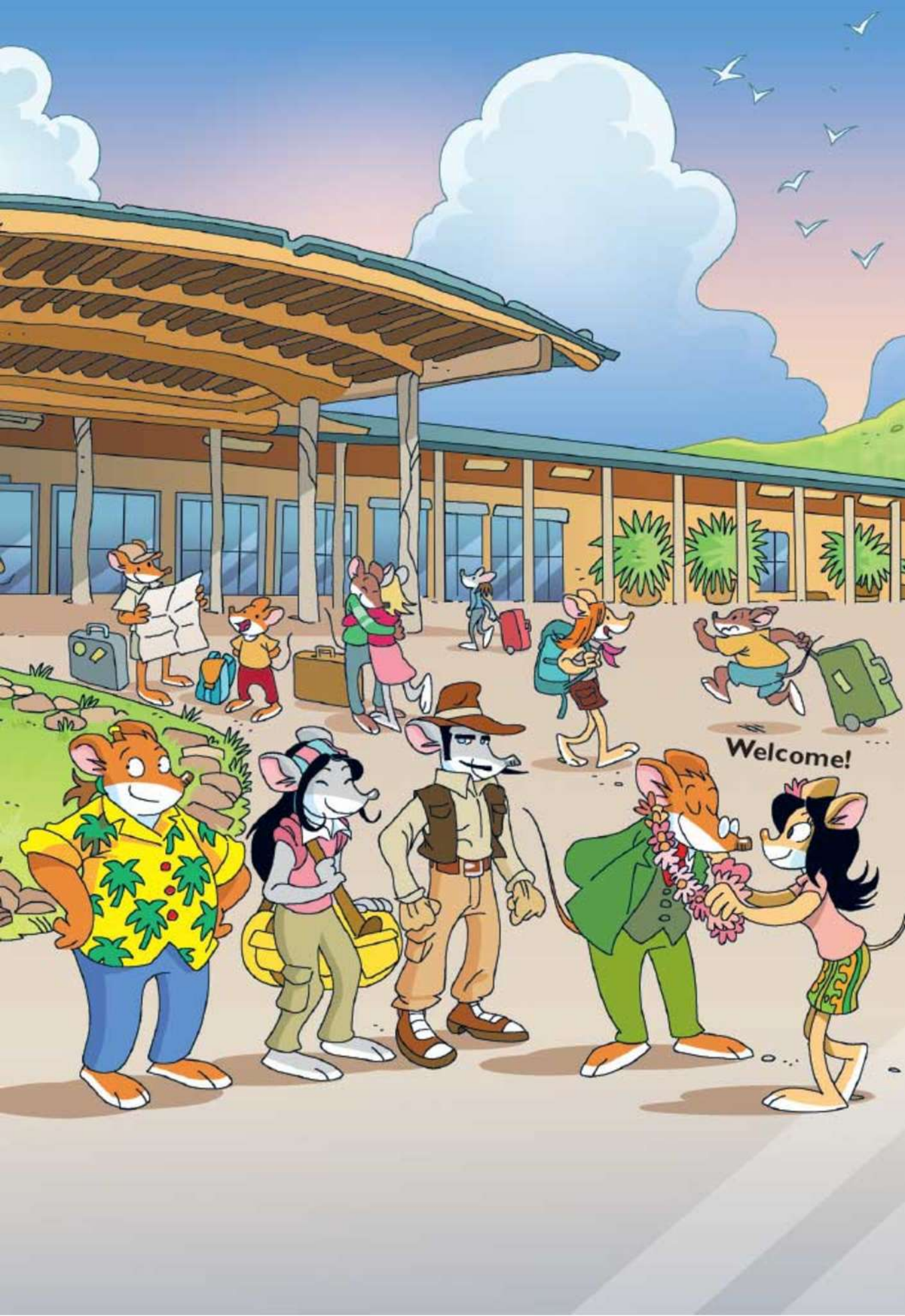
Before I knew it, the plane was landing at **Mataverí International Airport**. A friendly-looking rodent with golden fur and long **black** hair met us at the gate.

“Welcome to Rapa Nui!” she greeted us. “My name is **Vaitea**, and I will be your guide.”

She presented each of us with a garland of **multicolored** flowers.

“We’re not like other tourists,” Trap boasted. I could tell he was trying to make a good **impression** on Vaitea. “We’re here **hunting** for treasures —”

Susie clapped her paw over Trap’s snout before he could **finish**.



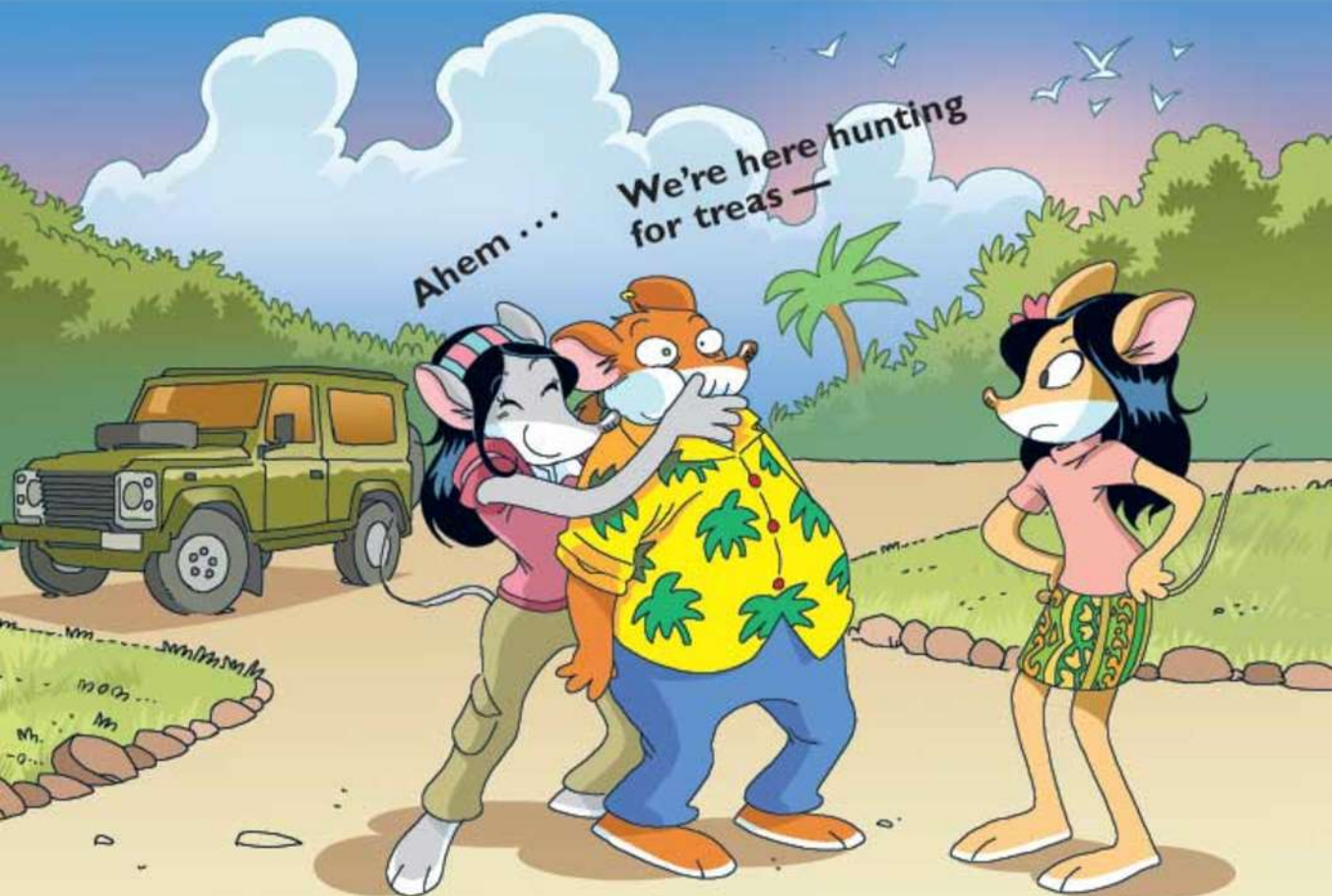
Welcome!



“Ahem, we’re here on vacation, just like all these other tourists,” Susie squeaked confidently. “We would love to see the island’s most **interesting** sights!”

Susie showed Vaitea a **PHOTO** of Thea.

“This is our friend who was recently on





the island,” she said. “Have you ever seen her?”

“No, I’m sorry,” Vaitea replied, **shaking** her head. “She doesn’t look familiar.”

We were all hungry from our long flight, so Vaitea took us to a great restaurant in the harbor. We ate huge grilled shrimp, fish soup, and **MAHI MAHI**, a fish that is often served on the island. During **dinner**, Vaitea told us some of the history of Easter Island.

“Rapa Nui is the other name for Easter Island,” she began. “It’s also the name of the people who live here, and I’m **proud**!”



SHORT DICTIONARY OF THE RAPANUI LANGUAGE

AHU: a structure or platform

HARE PA'ENGA: a traditional home that resembles an upside-down boat

'IORANA: hello or good-bye; a greeting

MATU'A: ancestor; father

MOAI: large statue

POKI: baby

RONGORONGO: wooden tablets with ancient carved writing

TOKI: tool used to carve stone

TOTORA: type of reed used to build rafts; a reed boat

VAI KAVA: ocean

Many inhabitants of Easter Island speak Rapanui, a Polynesian dialect. However, Chilean Spanish is the island's official language.

Rongorongo are ancient wooden tablets that feature carved symbols. These tablets have only been partially translated, so this written language is still a mystery!



to be one of them. My people speak two languages, Rapanui and Spanish.”

Then she **taught** us a few words and phrases. I began taking notes: Rapanui was a very **interesting** language! At the end of dinner I showed off my knowledge and said to Vaitea: “*Māuru-uru!* (Thank you!)”

“*Rivariva!* (Very good!)” Vaitea replied, smiling. “Now, would you like to see a typical dance?” she asked. “A **performance** is about to begin!”

The lights **dimmed**. Many young rodents appeared on the stage and began to sing. The musicians played ukuleles and drums, and a few people began to **dance**.

Their movements **MIMICKED** the daily activities of the Rapa Nui people, including swimming, fishing, and rowing a boat.



Then they danced a ritual **dance** showing warriors intimidating their enemies. Finally, they concluded with a dance in which a fishermouse and a **maiden** declared their love for each other. It was truly **FABUMOUSE!**

Susie snapped a lot of **PHOTOS**.

“We’ll leave here with lots of very





interesting material for *The Rodent's Gazette*. Thea will be very happy with my work!"

Hearing Thea's name brought me back to reality. We were here on a **MISSION!** Where was my sister, Thea? And was she in **DANGER?** We had to find out soon.





LOOK FOR THE BIGGEST AHU . . .

The next **morning** we gathered to decide what to do next. Wild Willie reread the **RIDDLE** on the map:

FIND THE BIGGEST AHU AND
ITS FIFTEEN PROTECTORS.
TURN WEST AND SEARCH FOR THE
GREAT WATER THAT IS AND ISN'T.
AT THE END OF THE DAY, FOLLOW
THE SUN AND YOU'LL FIND
THE SEVEN YOUNG EXPLORERS.
TAKE SEVEN GIGANTIC STEPS TO
THE RIGHT, THREE WARRIOR STEPS
TO THE LEFT, AND ONE BABY STEP
FORWARD.



THE SIGH OF THE WIND WILL
TAKE YOU FAR AWAY TO THE
BIG BLACK BUBBLE.



THERE, THE SEA HIDES
AN ANCIENT SECRET . . .



THE TREASURE OF
EASTER ISLAND!



“The first thing we need to do is to find an **AHU**,” he concluded. “In fact, we need to find the biggest one on the island.”

I checked my Easter Island **GUIDEBOOK**.

“The ahu are **STONE** platforms that were used as burial sites by the ancient inhabitants of Easter Island,” I explained.

Hmm, let's
see . . .

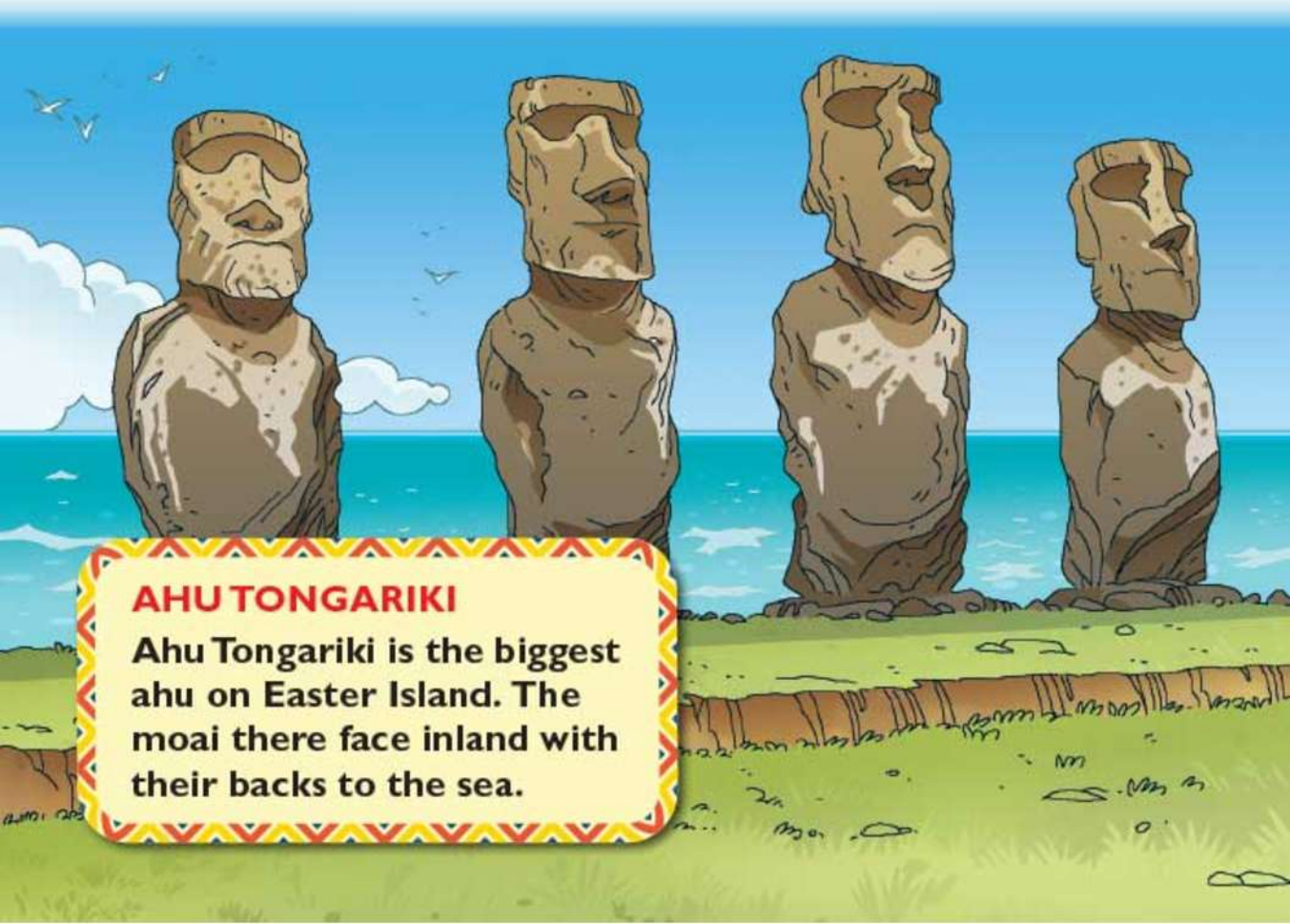




At that moment, Vaitea came in.

“Perfect timing!” Susie squeaked. “We were just talking about where we’d like to go **First**. We’d like to see some of the island’s **AHU**. Can you tell us which one is the **BIGGEST**?”

“That would be Ahu Tongariki,” Vaitea replied with a smile. “It’s one of the most



AHU TONGARIKI

Ahu Tongariki is the biggest ahu on Easter Island. The moai there face inland with their backs to the sea.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **SPECTACULAR** places on the island!”

★ When we got to Ahu Tongariki, the most **MAJESTIC** sight awaited us. The enormous statues lined the shore, their backs to the ocean **waves**. Vaitea explained that the statues — called moai — were built to guard and **PROTECT** the island.

“Get your **C A M E R A** ready, Susie!”





Trap shouted as he ran toward a moai. "I'm going to climb to the top."

"STOP!" Vaitea squeaked in dismay. "You can't climb a moai! Please, you shouldn't even touch it! This is my **ancestors'** sacred burial ground."

Susie grabbed Trap by the **TAIL** a second before he began to climb.

"What do you think you're doing?!" she scolded him.





During this whole mess, I was busy counting the moai on the stone platforms.

“One, two, three, four, five . . . thirteen, fourteen, **Fifteen!**” I counted. “These are the fifteen protectors the riddle talks about. We figured out the first **CLUE!**”

“Now we have to turn west and find the **Great Water,**” whispered Wild Willie. “But I don’t understand why it ‘is and isn’t.’ What do you think that means?”



SEARCHING FOR THE GREAT WATER

We headed west with Vaitea, but we didn't see even a **drop** of water anywhere!

"Is there any water on **EASTER ISLAND**?" Susie asked her. "I haven't seen any so far."

"Well, there is and isn't much **water** on the island," Vaitea replied mysteriously. "There are three crater lakes. But during the **dry** season, there isn't much water in them. During the **RAINY** season, though, it's another story . . ."

My tail **twisted** with excitement. Vaitea had referred to water that "is and isn't"!

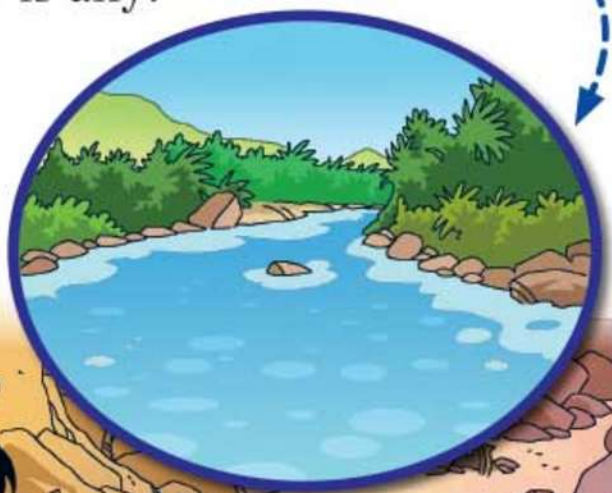
"Is one of these crater lakes near here?" I asked eagerly.

She nodded and motioned for us to follow



her up a **STEEP** path. We turned a corner, and there before us was a rocky **crater** etched deep into the ground.

“This is where the **Great Water** flows . . . when there is any!”





SEVEN YOUNG EXPLORERS

Wild Willie smiled with satisfaction and immediately checked the **MAP**.

“The map says, ‘At the end of the day, follow the sun,’” he said. “So we should head west, since that’s where the sun sets.”

I scratched my **SNOUT**.

“Yes, but what are the Seven Young Explorers?”

We got back in Vaitea’s SUV and headed toward the western shore of the island. As we mused over the riddle, we were as **quiet** as mice.

Night had already fallen, and Vaitea stared at the **dark** sky. A **silvery** moon shone brightly.

“In the olden days, it was precisely on **NIGHTS** like these that our ancestors performed **SACRED** ceremonies near the moai by the sea,” she told us. “Those ceremonies recalled the ancient traditions of Polynesia, which is where my courageous **forefathers** came from when they explored this new land.”

It all sounded very, very **familiar**. But where had I heard it **before**?

Vaitea's words kept turning over and over in my head. Then suddenly it was like a **light bulb**

Moai by
the sea...

Polynesia...

Forefathers
explored...

Ancient
traditions...

Sacred
ceremonies...





went off. I had read those words before in my travel guide! I leafed through it until I found what I was looking for.

“Listen to this!” I told the others, **reading** from the book. “Most of the moai on Easter Island look inward with their backs to the sea. But there is one group of **seven** moai that look toward the sea.” I turned toward Vaitea **eagerly**. “Do you know where these seven moai are?”

Listen to
this!



“Of course,” she replied immediately. “They are at **AHU AKIVI**. I can take you there right now if you **wish**.

They represent the seven young explorers who left Polynesia to look for new land, and



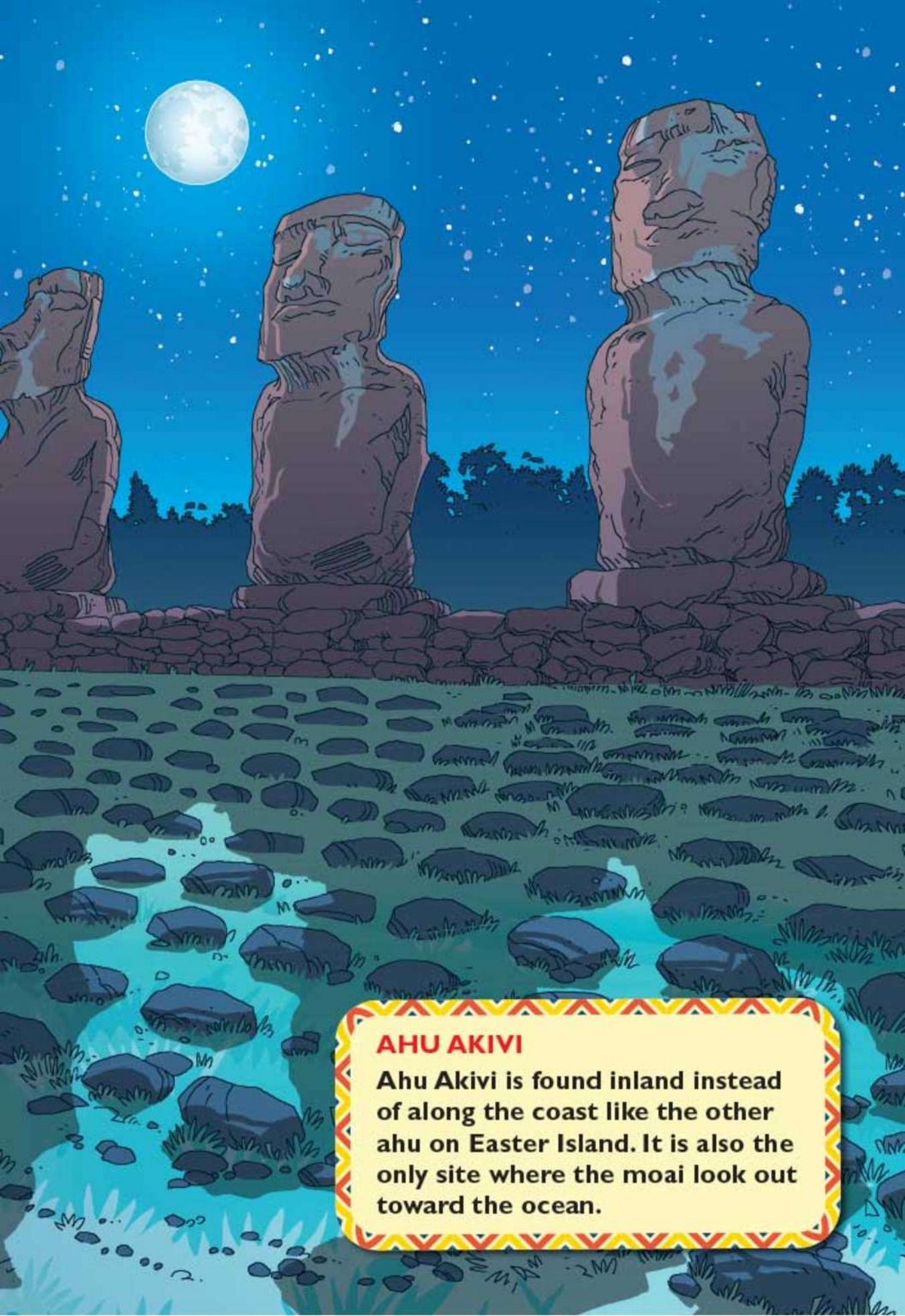
finally reached **EASTER ISLAND.**"

Susie, Trap, Wild Willie, and I exchanged a look. We had solved the next **CLUE!**

Vaitea turned the SUV onto a long dirt road full of potholes. Then we came to a **STOP** in a clearing. We quickly climbed out, eager with **excitement**. The four of us ran toward the summit of the small hill. At the top of the hill was a **platform** with seven moai standing in a row. The full moon bathed them with a **silvery** light, surrounding them with a halo of **mystery**.

"These must be the Seven Young Explorers!" I whispered to Susie.





AHU AKIVI

Ahu Akivi is found inland instead of along the coast like the other ahu on Easter Island. It is also the only site where the moai look out toward the ocean.



THE SIGH OF THE WIND

Vaitea noticed me and Susie whispering, and she studied us closely with her **BRIGHT** eyes.

“Excuse me, I don’t mean to be rude, but I don’t think you’ve told me the **truth** about why you are here,” she began. “I have a feeling you’re not simply **TOURISTS**.”

I looked at my friends. I was more than happy to tell **Vaitea** the truth, but I wasn’t sure what they were thinking.

Susie smiled. “It’s okay with me if we tell her,” she said. “I **TRUST** Vaitea.”

Wild Willie nodded. “Me, too.”

“Hmpf!” Trap squeaked. “Well, I don’t want to tell her. I don’t want to share the



treasure with anyone!”

Susie gave Trap a **STERN** look.

“Aren’t you ashamed of being so **greedy**?” she asked. “We’re searching for Thea, not the treasure!”

“*You* might be searching for Thea, but *I’m* looking for the treasure,” Trap admitted with a shrug. He didn’t seem **ashamed** at all!





The two of them began **squabbling**.
Wild Willie had to pull them apart!

“Three to one,” Willie told Trap. “The **majority** wins. Geronimo, explain everything to Vaitea!”

“My sister, Thea, came here in search of a **treasure**, but she’s gone **missing**!” I told Vaitea. “She never returned home to New Mouse City. So now we’re looking for the same **treasure** in the hope of finding her!”

Vaitea **thought** it over.

“I’ll help!” she offered.

Seven gigantic steps
to the right ...



Three warrior steps
to the left ...





Meanwhile, Trap was busy following the **directions** on the map. He had run in front of the seven moai and began counting in a **LOUD** voice.

“Okay,” he squeaked. “The map says to take seven gigantic steps to the right, three warrior steps to the left, and one **baby** step forward . . .”

He had just taken the baby step when his paw landed on **something** that looked like a plain old rock. But it wasn't a rock. It was a **HOLE**!





With a yelp, Trap fell into it — **DOWN, DOWN, DOWN!**

We ran toward the **HOLE**, but it was too late. My cousin had disappeared!

Wild Willie **TWIRLED** his whiskers thoughtfully.

“The riddle did say, ‘The **Sigh of the Wind** will take you far away,’” he said.

“We’ve got to do something!” Susie **squeaked**.

“Are you ready for an **ADVENTURE**?” Wild Willie shouted. “If you are, follow me!”

He held out his  to Susie, who held out her paw to me. In turn, I held out my paw to Vaitea. A moment later, Wild Willie **JUMPED** into the hole, taking the rest of us with him!

MOLDY MOZZARELLA! How do I get myself into these messes?!

Are you
ready for an
adventure?

Let's go!

I'm so scared!





THE BIG BLACK BUBBLE

We found ourselves inside a damp, **dark** underground tunnel. I was **terrified**! I couldn't see a whisker!

What's more, there was a continuous rustling noise, as if a **GIGANTIC** creature was lying there, breathing in the dark. I let out a shriek of terror as we plummeted





deeper and **deeper** into the underground passageway. We seemed to be traveling to the center of the **EARTH**. A moment later, I was no longer **sliding** down the tunnel — I was **floating** in the air! The Sigh of the Wind was carrying us along!

We floated along in the tunnel for a long time. Then instead of descending farther, we began to **rise** until the wind finally deposited us on **FIRM** ground. Trap had already emerged and was rubbing his





We're all
here!

Ouch!

Whoops!

Your hat!



Bruised tail. Wild Willie bounded out, but his hat remained floating in midair as if on top of an invisible fountain. Willie grabbed it quickly and put it back on his head.

I glanced around me and made sure everyone was **okay**.

“Trap, Susie, Wild Willie, Vaitea, and me!” I squeaked. “All here!”

I breathed a sigh of **relief**. Then I looked around, taking in my **surroundings**.

We found ourselves inside an enormous cave with a **rounded** ceiling. It looked like a big, **DARK** bubble. There was a saltwater lagoon in the middle of the cave. I gently touched the wall: It was dark, porous volcanic rock.

“The **Big Black Bubble!**” whispered Susie. “We found it!”



This must be
the Big Black
Bubble!

Yay! This is
where the
treasure is!

This is
volcanic
rock!





“This is where the **treasure** is!” Trap squeaked with excitement.

Susie turned to him, an **ANGRY** look on her snout.

“No, this is where we might find Thea!” she corrected him. “How can you only think of the treasure? You should be **ashamed** of yourself!”

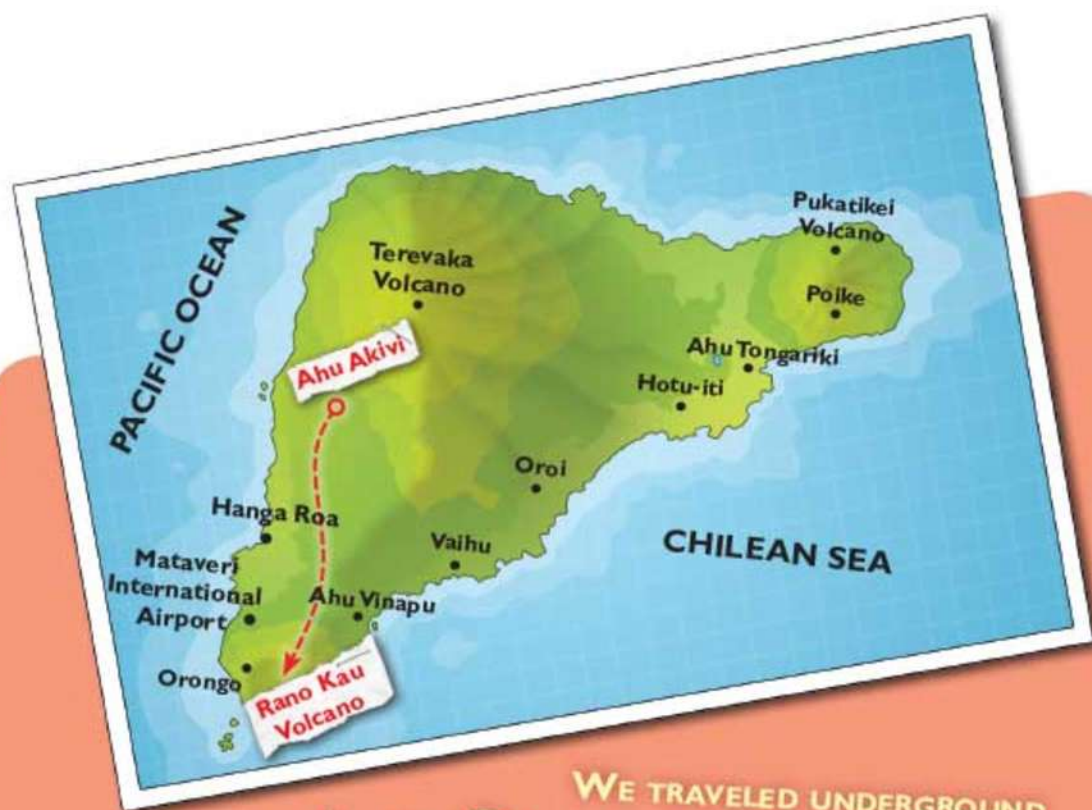
Meanwhile, Wild Willie examined the map.

“I checked our direction with the **compass** while we were traveling on the Sigh of the Wind,” he whispered. “We traveled underground in a **SOUTHWEST** direction.”

“That means we’re now right under the Rano Kau **GRATER!**” Vaitea added. “We’re in the heart of a **volcano**. And this must be a **secret** underground lagoon.



I've never seen it on any map, and I've been a guide on this island since I was a **tiny** mouselet!"



WE TRAVELED UNDERGROUND
FROM AHU AKIVI TO THE RANO
KAU CRATER!



PIRATES IN THE NIGHT

As they were talking, Susie **snapped** some photos of Wild Willie checking the map. The camera's **flash** lit the rocks behind us.

At the same time, Trap **sneezed**. The sound bounced off the surrounding walls, **ECHOING** loudly.





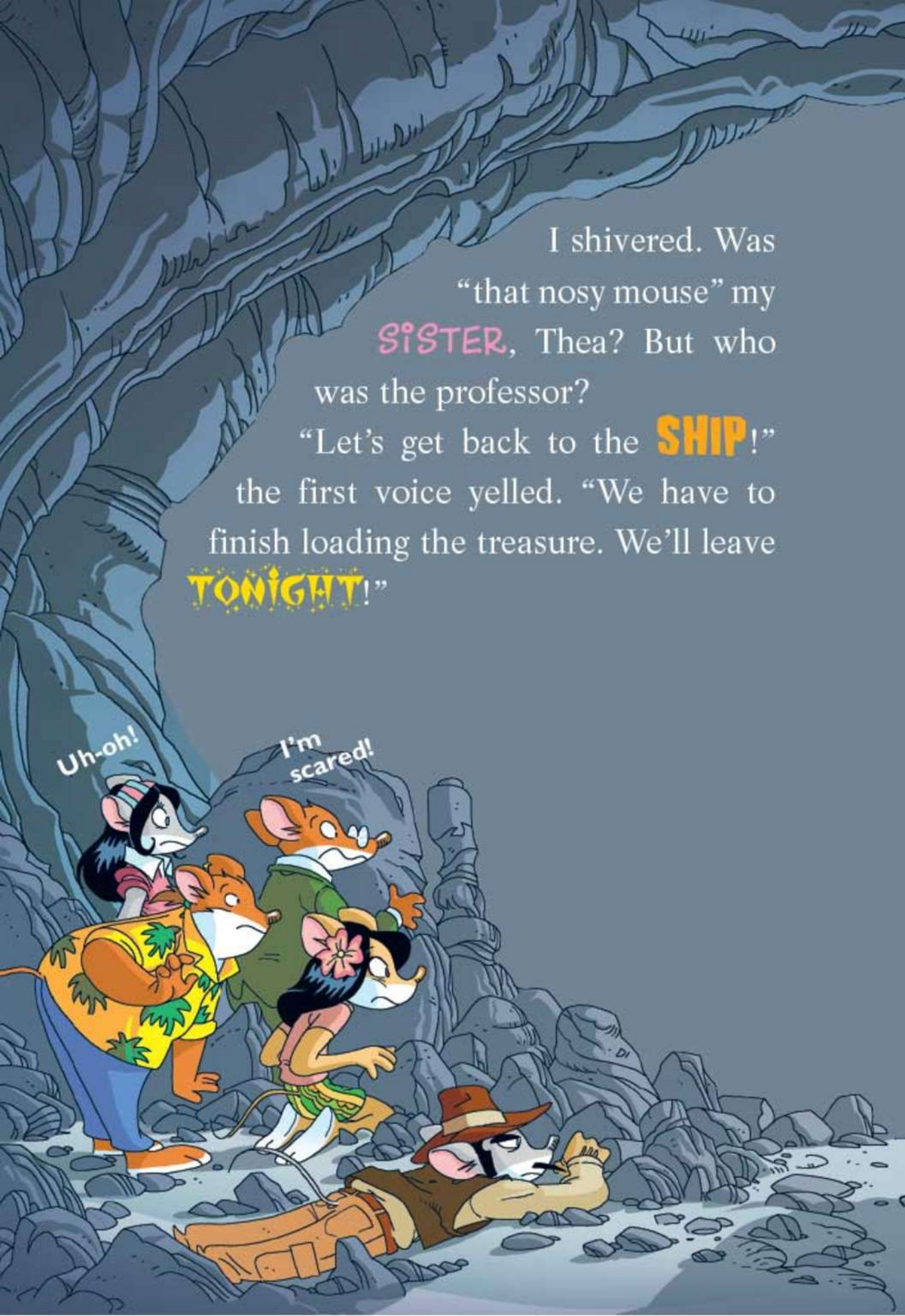
Achoo! Choo! Choo! Choo!

A second later we heard a squeak. We weren't **alone** in the cave! And the flash of the camera and the echo of the sneeze had revealed our presence to whoever else was there.

Wild Willie motioned to us to keep **quiet**. Then he **SCAMPERED** behind some rocks and squatted down. We immediately followed his example. A moment later, we heard an **unfriendly** voice.

"Search there, at the end of the cave," the voice commanded. "And if you find anyone, bring them to me!"

"Maybe somebody came looking for that **nosy** little mouse and the professor," another voice replied.



I shivered. Was
“that nosy mouse” my
SISTER, Thea? But who
was the professor?

“Let’s get back to the **SHIP!**”
the first voice yelled. “We have to
finish loading the treasure. We’ll leave
TONIGHT!”

Uh-oh!

I’m
scared!

“Yes, Captain,” the other rodent replied. “But what are we going to do with our prisoners? They know **EVERYTHING**. We can’t leave them here!”

My whiskers **trembled** with fear.

“I’ll figure it out later,” grumbled the captain. “Now let’s go! Get the **PRISONERS**

Yes, Captain!

Let’s get back to the ship!





and bring them to the ship. They may still be useful!”

Someone was coming toward us, but Wild Willie signaled to us to follow him **quietly**. Afraid of being seen, we **slithered** across the cave floor on our elbows until we reached the shore of the lagoon, where we saw a giant **PIRATE SHIP**!

The ship had a **SLIM** shape and a **huge** sail to better cruise the waves. It was completely black — including the sails — and I could see its name on the side: **PHANTOM OF THE NIGHT**.

Susie pointed to something hanging from the **TIP** of a rock, high above us. It was a giant cage! Inside was my sister, Thea, and Professor Von Dustyfur, a famous **ARCHAEOLOGIST** who specializes in ancient **treasures**.

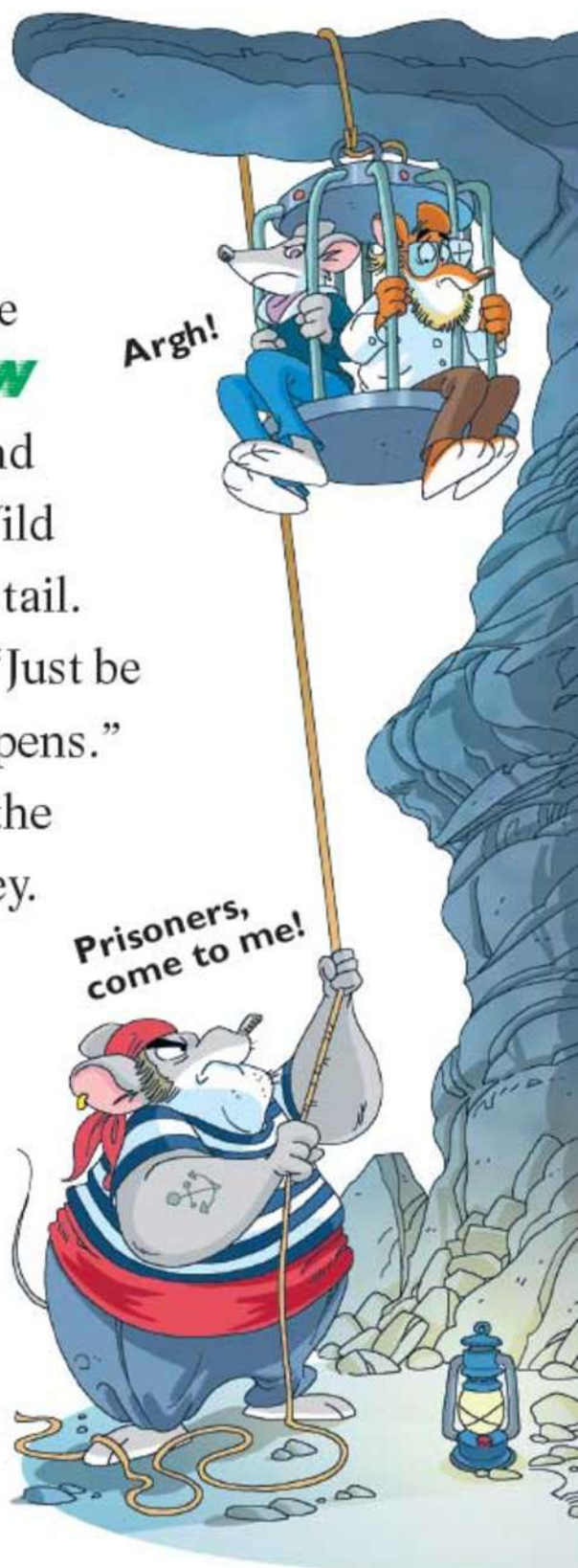
The short, **ROUND** pirate moved toward the cage. I was about to **RUN** over to save my sister and the professor when Wild Willie grabbed me by the tail.

“**Wait!**” he whispered. “Just be **quiet**. Let’s see what happens.”

The pirate lowered the **CAGE** using a pulley.

Then he opened it, nudged my sister and the professor out of the cage, and **TIED** their paws behind their backs. He left them behind a giant pile of **CRATES**.

“Don’t move, got





it?” he hissed. “The captain hasn’t decided what to do with you yet!”

The other **PIRATES** loaded the crates onto the ship one at a time, arranging them neatly in the cargo compartment. As the pirates worked, the captain **BARKED** insults at his crew.

“Hurry up or I’ll feed you to the **SHARKS**



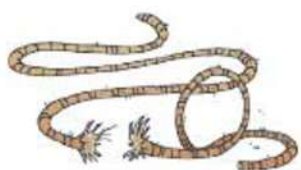


for dinner!” he squeaked **menacingly**.

Soon all the pirates had disappeared inside the ship, leaving Thea and the professor **alone**. I signaled to the others, and we crept quickly but quietly to their side.

“**Shhh!** Thea, it’s me, Geronimo!” I whispered. “We came to **save** you!”





THE TREASURE OF RAPA NUI

Thea's eyes **LIT UP** when she saw me. Luckily, she and the professor remained **silent**. I picked up a **SHARP** sliver of rock and used it to saw through the ropes that bound their paws.

"Follow me," I whispered to them. "But don't make a **SOUND**!"

The pirates were busy preparing for their





departure, so they didn't see us **sneak** away from the ship. We slipped behind some rocks out of the pirates' view.

"Thank you, Geronimo!" Thea said, **hugging** me affectionately. "I knew you'd come save me!"

Professor Von Dustyfur also thanked me **warmly**. I introduced Susie, Trap, Wild Willie, and Vaitea.

"I would never have been able to find you without their **help**," I told Thea and the professor.

"What are these **PIRATES** up to?" Willie asked, pointing to the ship.

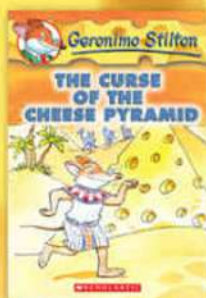
"Well, I came to the island and followed the instructions on the map, just like you," Thea explained. "First I found the largest **AHU** with the fifteen moai, then the Great Water, then the Seven Young Explorers, and



**Be sure to read all my
fabumouse adventures!**



**#1 Lost Treasure of
the Emerald Eye**



**#2 The Curse of the
Cheese Pyramid**



**#3 Cat and Mouse in a
Haunted House**



**#4 I'm Too Fond of
My Fur!**



**#5 Four Mice Deep in
the Jungle**



**#6 Paws Off,
Cheddarface!**



**#7 Red Pizzas for a
Blue Count**



**#8 Attack of the
Bandit Cats**



**#9 A Fabumouse
Vacation for Geronimo**



**#10 All Because of a
Cup of Coffee**



**#11 It's Halloween,
You 'Fraidy Mouse!**



**#12 Merry Christmas,
Geronimo!**



**#13 The Phantom of
the Subway**



**#14 The Temple of the
Ruby of Fire**



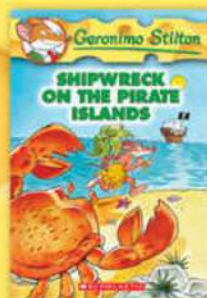
**#15 The Mona Mousa
Code**



**#16 A Cheese-Colored
Camper**



**#17 Watch Your
Whiskers, Stilton!**



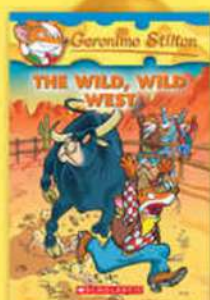
**#18 Shipwreck on the
Pirate Islands**



**#19 My Name Is Stilton,
Geronimo Stilton**



**#20 Surf's Up,
Geronimo!**



#21 The Wild, Wild West



#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



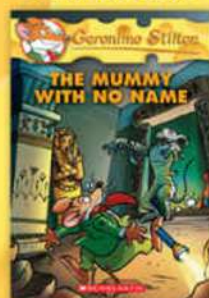
#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



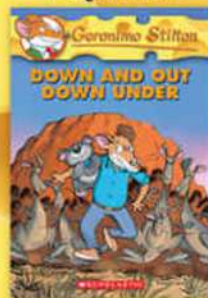
#26 The Mummy with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



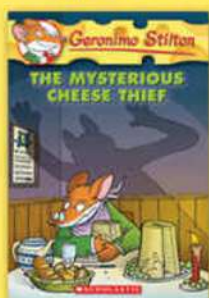
#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



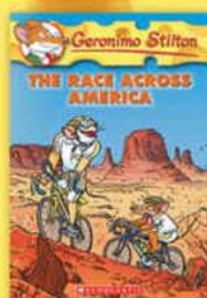
#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



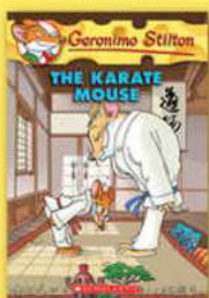
#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



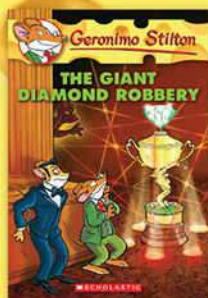
#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!



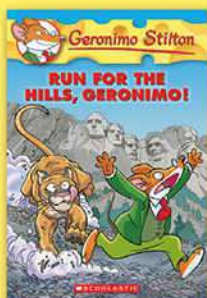
#44 The Giant Diamond Robbery



#45 Save the White Whale!



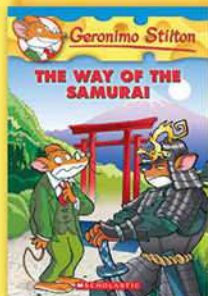
#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



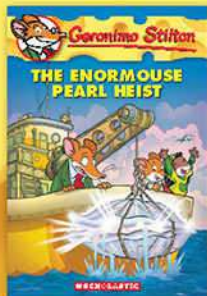
#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Haunted



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



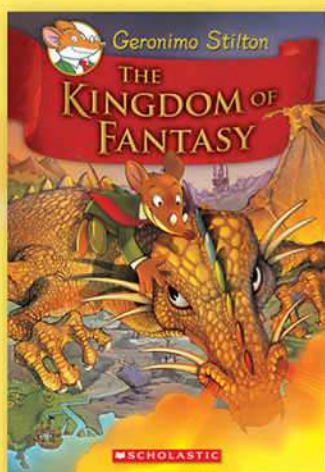
The Hunt for the Golden Book



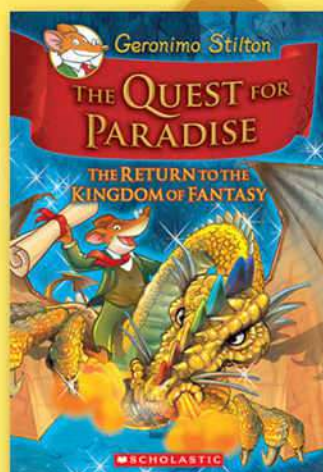
#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



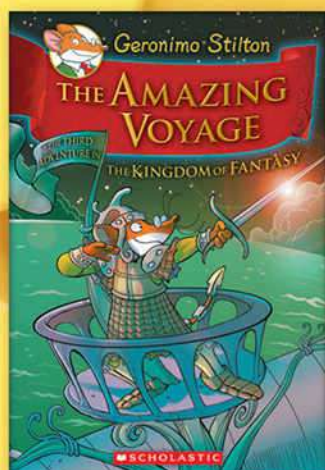
Be sure
to read all
my adventures
in the Kingdom
of Fantasy!



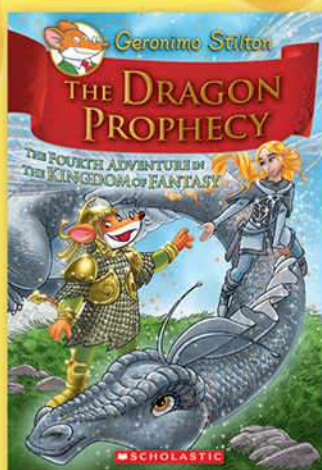
THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



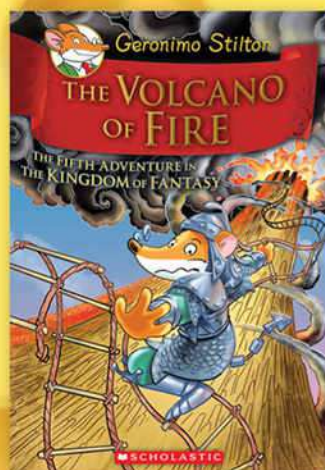
THE QUEST FOR
PARADISE:
THE RETURN TO THE
KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE AMAZING
VOYAGE:
THE THIRD ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



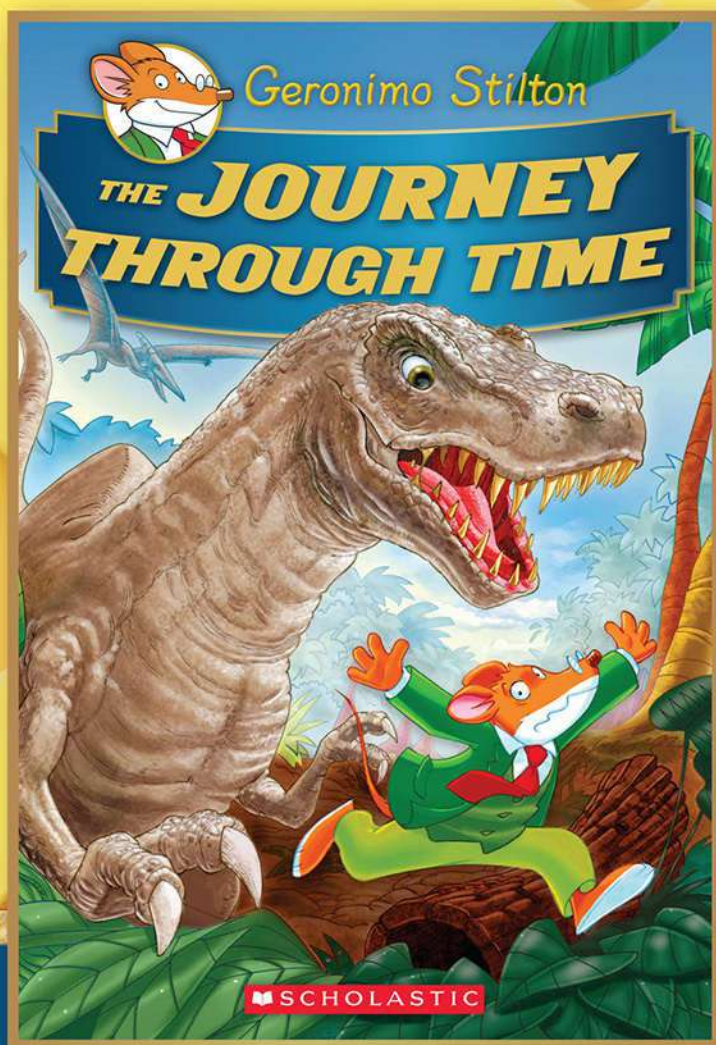
THE DRAGON
PROPHECY:
THE FOURTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



THE VOLCANO
OF FIRE:
THE FIFTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



Join me and my friends on
a journey through time in
this very special edition!



THE JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME



**Don't miss
these exciting
Thea Sisters
adventures!**



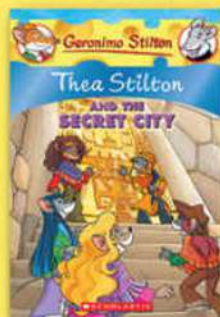
**Thea Stilton and the
Dragon's Code**



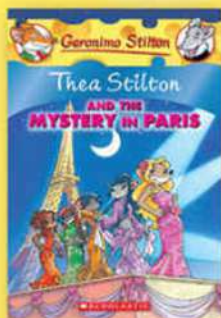
**Thea Stilton and the
Mountain of Fire**



**Thea Stilton and the
Ghost of the Shipwreck**



**Thea Stilton and the
Secret City**



**Thea Stilton and the
Mystery in Paris**



**Thea Stilton and the
Cherry Blossom Adventure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Star Castaways**



**Thea Stilton: Big Trouble
in the Big Apple**



**Thea Stilton and the
Ice Treasure**



**Thea Stilton and the
Secret of the Old Castle**



**Thea Stilton and the
Blue Scarab Hunt**



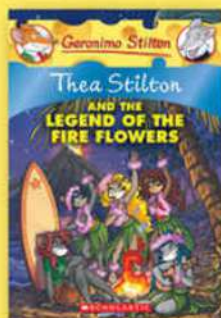
**Thea Stilton and the
Prince's Emerald**



**Thea Stilton and the Mystery
on the Orient Express**



**Thea Stilton and the
Dancing Shadows**



**Thea Stilton and the
Legend of the Fire
Flowers**



**Thea Stilton and the
Spanish Dance Mission**



**Thea Stilton and the
Journey to the Lion's Den**



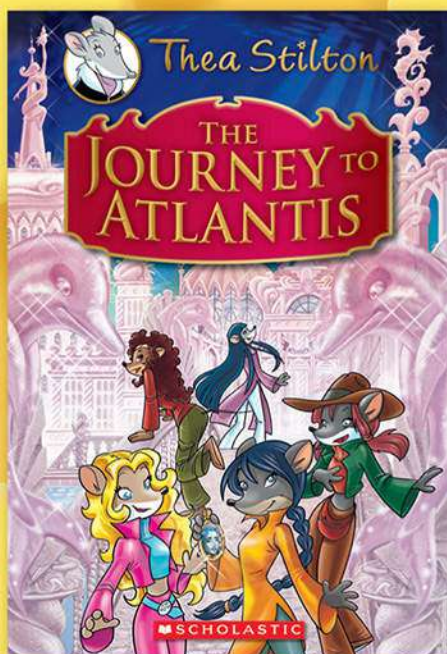
**Thea Stilton and the
Great Tulip Heist**



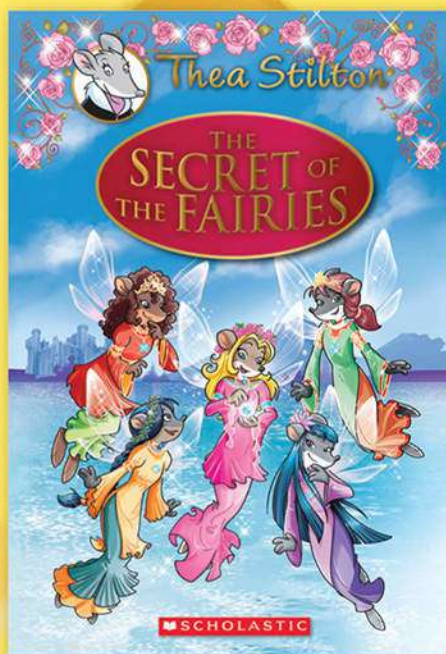
**Thea Stilton and the
Chocolate Sabotage**



Check out
these very
special editions
featuring me
and the Thea
Sisters!



THE JOURNEY
TO ATLANTIS



THE SECRET OF
THE FAIRIES

MEET GERONIMO STILTONIX



He is a spacemouse — the Geronimo Stilton of a parallel universe! He is captain of the spaceship MouseStar 1. While flying through the cosmos, he visits distant planets and meets crazy aliens. His adventures are out of this world!



#1 Alien Escape

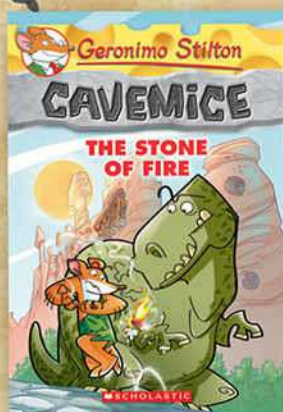


#2 You're Mine, Captain!

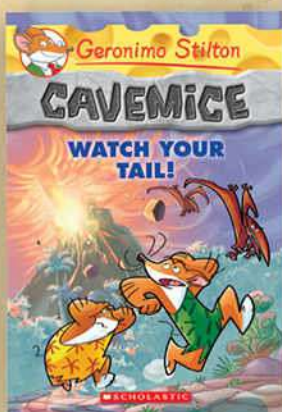


Meet GERONIMO STILTONOOT

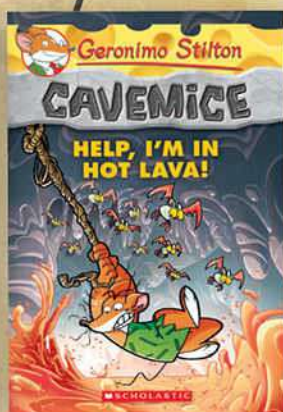
He is a cavemouse — Geronimo Stilton's ancient ancestor! He runs the stone newspaper in the prehistoric village of Old Mouse City. From dealing with dinosaurs to dodging meteorites, his life in the Stone Age is full of adventure!



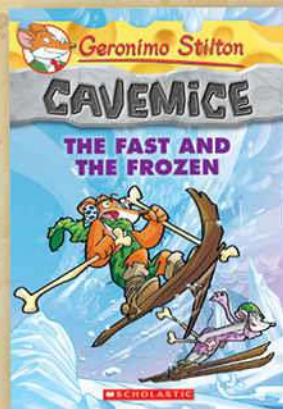
#1 The Stone of Fire



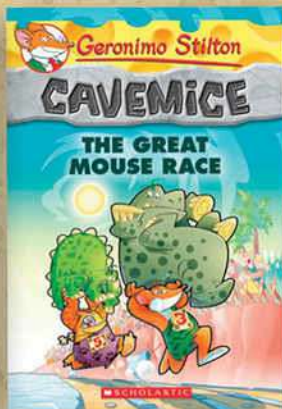
#2 Watch Your Tail!



#3 Help, I'm in Hot Lava!



#4 The Fast and the Frozen

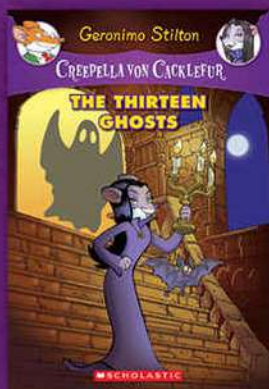


#5 The Great Mouse Race

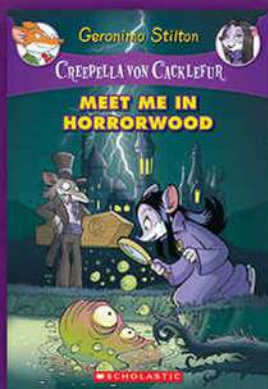


Meet CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR

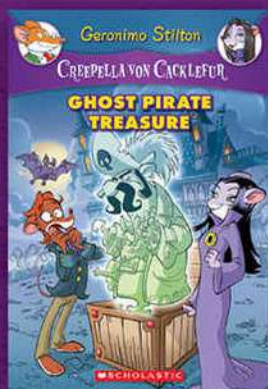
I, *Geronimo Stilton*, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as **spooky** as my friend **CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR**! She is an enchanting and **MYSTERIOUS** mouse with a pet bat named **Bitewing**. **YIKES!** I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think **CREEPELLA** and her family are **AWFULLY** fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about **CREEPELLA** in these **fa-mouse-ly funny** and **spectacularly spooky** tales!



#1 The Thirteen Ghosts



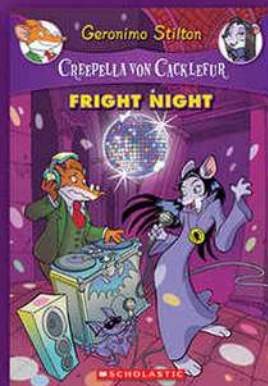
#2 Meet Me in Horrorwood



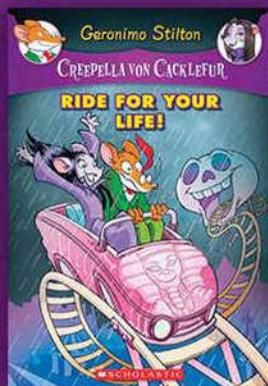
#3 Ghost Pirate Treasure



#4 Return of the Vampire



#5 Fright Night



#6 Ride for Your Life

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Born in New Mouse City, Mouse Island, **GERONIMO STILTON** is Rattus Emeritus of Mousomorphic Literature and of Neo-Ratonic Comparative Philosophy. For the past twenty years, he has been running *The Rodent's Gazette*, New Mouse City's most widely read daily newspaper.

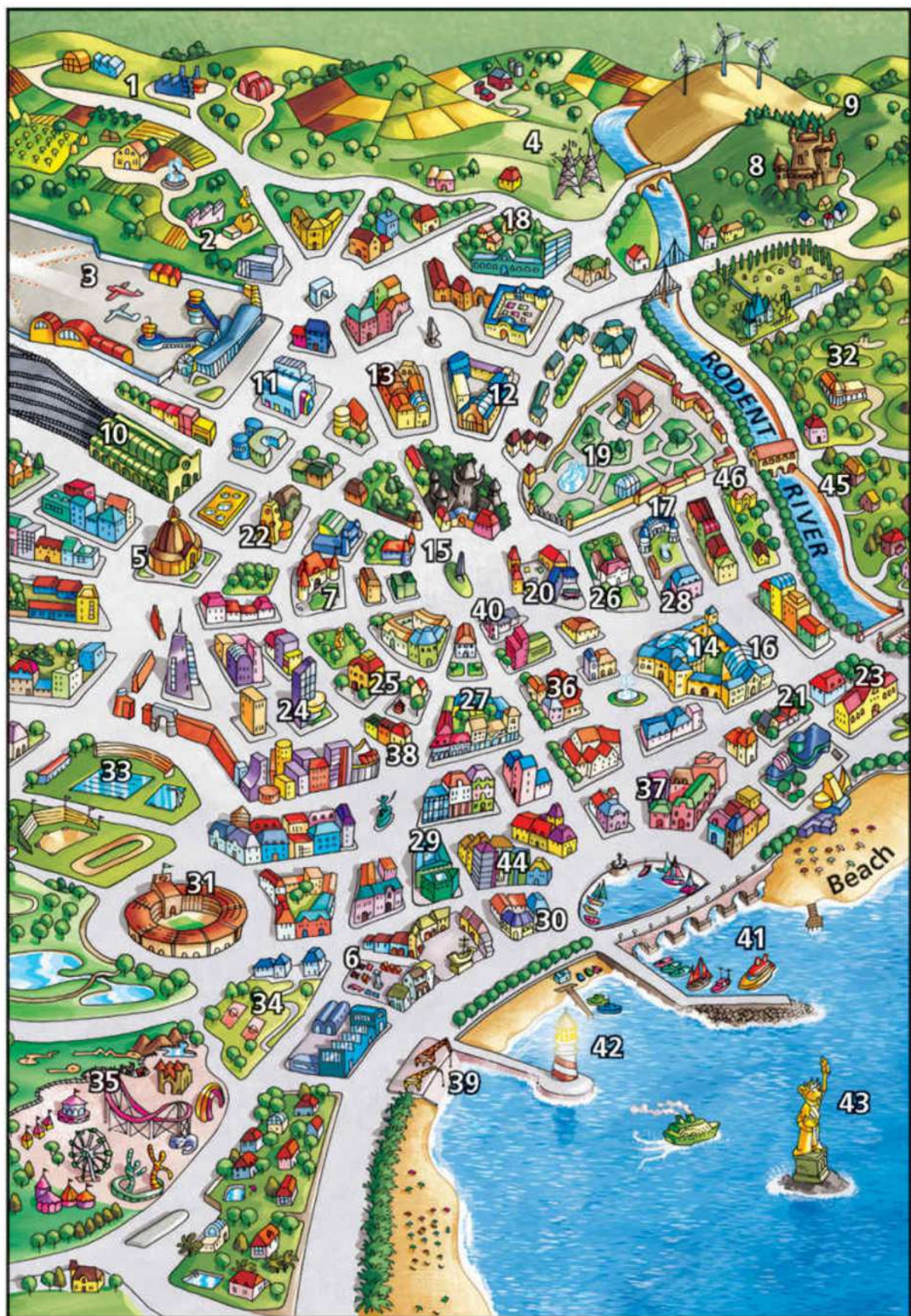
Stilton was awarded the Ratitzer Prize for his scoops on *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid* and *The Search for Sunken Treasure*. He has also received the Andersen 2000 Prize for Personality of the Year. One of his bestsellers won the 2002 eBook Award for world's best ratlings' electronic book. His works have been published all over the globe.

In his spare time, Mr. Stilton collects antique cheese rinds and plays golf. But what he most enjoys is telling stories to his nephew Benjamin.



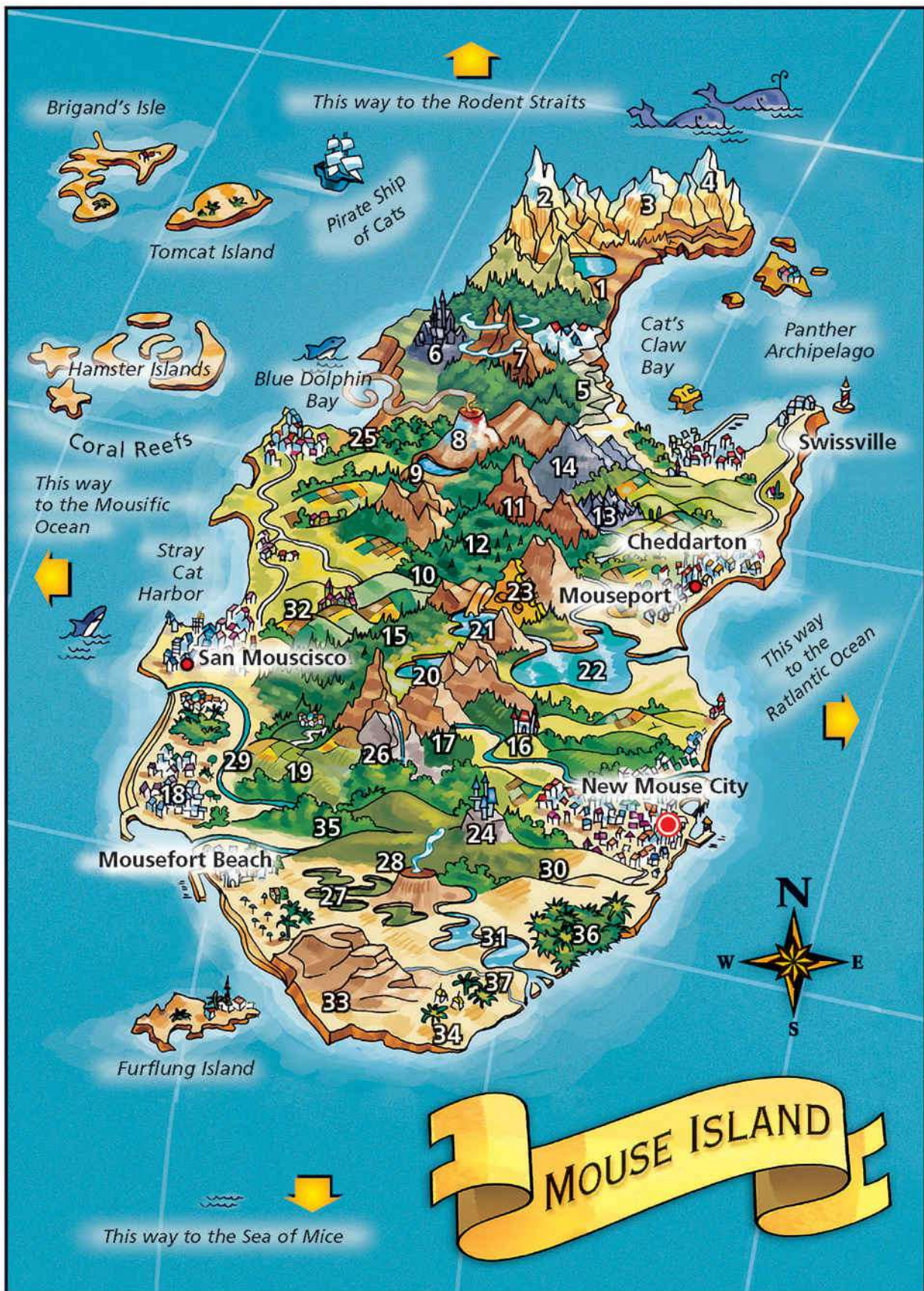
1. Main entrance
2. Printing presses (where the books and newspaper are printed)
3. Accounts department
4. Editorial room (where the editors, illustrators, and designers work)
5. Geronimo Stilton's office
6. Helicopter landing pad

*THE RODENT'S
GAZETTE*



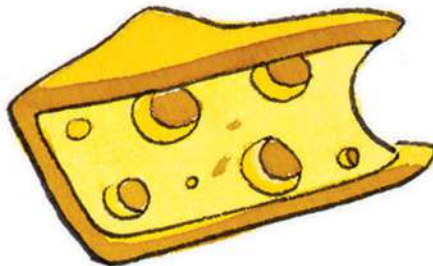
Map of New Mouse City

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Industrial Zone | 24. <i>The Daily Rat</i> |
| 2. Cheese Factories | 25. <i>The Rodent's Gazette</i> |
| 3. Angorat International Airport | 26. Trap's House |
| 4. WRAT Radio and Television Station | 27. Fashion District |
| 5. Cheese Market | 28. The Mouse House Restaurant |
| 6. Fish Market | 29. Environmental Protection Center |
| 7. Town Hall | 30. Harbor Office |
| 8. Snotnose Castle | 31. Mousidon Square Garden |
| 9. The Seven Hills of Mouse Island | 32. Golf Course |
| 10. Mouse Central Station | 33. Swimming Pool |
| 11. Trade Center | 34. Tennis Courts |
| 12. Movie Theater | 35. Curlyfur Island Amusement Park |
| 13. Gym | 36. Geronimo's House |
| 14. Catnegie Hall | 37. Historic District |
| 15. Singing Stone Plaza | 38. Public Library |
| 16. The Gouda Theater | 39. Shipyard |
| 17. Grand Hotel | 40. Thea's House |
| 18. Mouse General Hospital | 41. New Mouse Harbor |
| 19. Botanical Gardens | 42. Luna Lighthouse |
| 20. Cheap Junk for Less (Trap's store) | 43. The Statue of Liberty |
| 21. Aunt Sweetfur and Benjamin's House | 44. Hercule Poirat's Office |
| 22. Museum of Modern Art | 45. Petunia Pretty Paws's House |
| 23. University and Library | 46. Grandfather William's House |



Map of Mouse Island

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Big Ice Lake | 21. Lake Lakelake |
| 2. Frozen Fur Peak | 22. Lake Lakelakelake |
| 3. Slipperyslopes Glacier | 23. Cheddar Crag |
| 4. Coldcreeps Peak | 24. Cannycat Castle |
| 5. Ratzikistan | 25. Valley of the Giant
Sequoia |
| 6. Transratania | 26. Cheddar Springs |
| 7. Mount Vamp | 27. Sulfurous Swamp |
| 8. Roastedrat Volcano | 28. Old Reliable Geyser |
| 9. Brimstone Lake | 29. Vole Vale |
| 10. Poopedcat Pass | 30. Ravingrat Ravine |
| 11. Stinko Peak | 31. Gnat Marshes |
| 12. Dark Forest | 32. Munster Highlands |
| 13. Vain Vampires Valley | 33. Mousehara Desert |
| 14. Goose Bumps Gorge | 34. Oasis of the
Sweaty Camel |
| 15. The Shadow Line Pass | 35. Cabbagehead Hill |
| 16. Penny Pincher Castle | 36. Rattytrap Jungle |
| 17. Nature Reserve Park | 37. Rio Mosquito |
| 18. Las Ratayas Marinas | |
| 19. Fossil Forest | |
| 20. Lake Lake | |



Dear mouse friends,
Thanks for reading, and farewell
till the next book.
It'll be another whisker-licking-good
adventure, and that's a promise!



Geronimo Stilton



GERONIMO STILTON



THEA



TRAP



BENJAMIN

Who is Geronimo Stilton?

That's me! I run a newspaper, but my true passion is writing adventure stories. Here in New Mouse City, the capital of Mouse Island, my books are all bestsellers! My stories are funny, fa-mouse-ly funny. They are whisker-licking-good tales, and that's a promise!

MOUSE IN SPACE!

New Mouse City was in danger! An evil professor was threatening us all with his terrible inventions. The authorities called upon me to thwart his plans by traveling on a top secret mission — to outer space! I was totally unprepared to go. But, moldy mozzarella, my trip was out of this world!

 **SCHOLASTIC**



www.scholastic.com/geronimostilton

More leveling information for this book:
www.scholastic.com/readinglevel